The Government of India has also set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice V.S. Malimath to suggest measures to revamp Criminal Justice System in the country. The Report of the Committee is awaited.

In addition to above various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of criminal cases. These include increase in the number of posts of Judges/Magistrates, establishment of Special Courts/tribunals, Fast Track Courts, computerisation of courts and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes.

Disappearance of Companies after mobilisation of money from share market

†844. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of companies have mobilised money from share market after implementation of economic liberalization policy in the country and have either disappeared or declared themselves sick;

(b) if so, the number of such companies during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the amount so mobilised from the common investors of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) An amount of Rs. 958.90 crores is alleged to have been collected through public issue by 176 such companies.

Advocates Appointed to Plead cases of Government in Foreign Courts

†845. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the advocates are appointed to plead the cases of Government of India which are in the foreign courts;

(b) if so, the total number of advocates appointed till September, 2001 and the names thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the basis on which they are appointed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) From January 2001 to September 2001, this Ministry has approved the engagement of five advocates/Law Firm namely M/s Powell, Goldstein, Frazer and Murphy LLP, Attroneys Washington, Prof. F. Roesseller, Geneva, M/s Thomas and Partners, Shri Krishnan Venugopal and M/s S.O. Ajayi & Co., Lagos to plead the cases on behalf of the Government of India in foreign courts/ forums. The advocates have been appointed on the recommendation made by the concerned administrative Ministry.

Criteria for opening fast track courts

846. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts intended to be opened under the scheme and the number of such courts, so far opened in each State:

(b) the criteria adopted for opening of such courts; and

(c) the number of undertrials in each State as on September 1st, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, 1734 Fast Track Courts are to be set up by the State Governments under the scheme. The number of courts set up in each State is as per Statement-I. (*See* below)

(b) It is for the State Government in consultation with the respective High Court to set up such courts depending upon the pendency of cases and other related factors. However, these courts are expected to focus on the disposal of long pending cases, priority being given to sessions cases and cases involving undertrials in jails. Each court is expected to dispose of 14 sessions cases or 25 other criminal/civil cases per month.

(c) As per the lastest statistics with the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs the number of undertrials State-wise in different jails at the end of 1999 is as per Statement-II.